REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The applicant is grateful for the interview with Examiner, conducted April 24, 2007, in which it was pointed out that the present invention differs from the cited references by having a prefilmer including a downstream edge from where the fuel is shed in use and which also includes a fluid flow mixing means on the surface over which the fuel flows. It should be noted that none of the references cited provide a fluid flow mixing means being located downstream of a prefilmer fuel outlet which forms the film.

Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to better distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art by limiting the claims to a fuel injector having a prefilmer being located upstream of the fluid flow mixing means wherein the fluid flow mixing means is provided at the downstream edge of the surface over which the fuel flows.

Claim 19 has been cancelled and claim 18 has been amended to clarify which "surface" is actually being referred to.

The patent granted to HELLAT et al. (US 4781030) does not disclose, teach or illustrate any member, such as the present invention's fluid flow mixing means, being provided in the flow path in order to advantageously effect the mixing of fuel and air as claimed in currently amended claim 1 (See Figure 1 of HELLAT et al.). Thus, the present invention is believed novel and inventive over HELLAT et al.

The patent granted to WILLIS et al. (US 5121608) fails to provide any member, such as the present invention's fluid flow mixing means, being disposed to the fuel flow surface. It should be noted that the vanes 32 (Fig. 1) are not provided on the fuel flow surface and are only provided to ensure that the airflow remains non-turbulent in the region of outlet 31 (column 3 lines 9-13) whereas the fluid flow mixing means of the present invention is provided to enhance the mixing of fuel and air and located on the fuel flow surface.

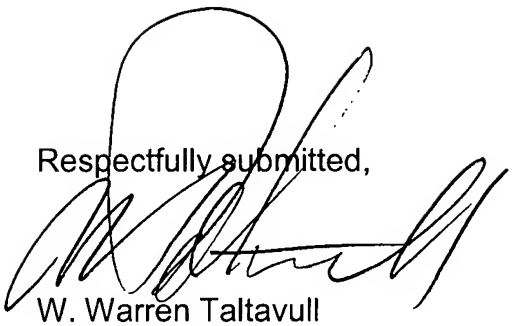
The patent granted to SHEKLETON (US 4470262) fails to teach or disclose any member, such as the present invention's fluid flow mixing means, being disposed to the fuel flow surface at its downstream edge as claimed in currently amended claim 1. Referring to Figure 8, the downstream edge near 216 fails to provide a mixing member to enhance the mixing of fuel and air. SHEKLETON shows, referring to Fig. 1, the fuel flow being delivered through fuel line 44 to passages 46, 48 which angularly extends outwardly and opens onto the exterior surface 49. The combustion air that flows through passage 34 spread and thins the fuel into a stratified film 52. It can be seen that there is no further mixing means to which the fuel flows over. Regarding the patents to JOSHI et al. (US 5638682 & US 5251447), both of these patents fail to disclose a fluid flow mixing means disposed to the surface over which the fuel flows. Thus, the present invention is believed novel and inventive over SHEKLETON in view of JOSHI et al.

The patent granted to LARSON et al. (US 4284170) also fails to suggest, disclose or teach providing a mixing member, such as the present invention's fluid flow mixing means, being disposed to the fuel flow surface as claimed in currently amended claim 1.

Thus, since none of the cited references disclose or illustrate a prefilmer including a downstream edge from where the fuel is shed and a fluid flow mixing means on the surface over which the fuel flows and since none of the cited references provide a fluid flow mixing means being located downstream of a prefilmer fuel outlet which forms the film, the present invention is believed novel and inventive over each of the prior art.

Entry of this amendment is solicited, is believed appropriate, and is believed to distinguish the invention from the cited references. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance are believed in order and are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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